Students returned to school after spring break to a fresh splash of color at Charlotte Catholic. The old, grey stairs in the main staircases had been replaced with stairs of a royal blue shade.

Students seem to appreciate the color that the stairs bring to the school, and they like these new steps better than the boring grey ones.

“I think that the blue really helps bring out school spirit,” said sophomore Christian Schwartz.

“I’ve realized that I hadn’t walked on stairs until I walked on these blue stairs,” said sophomore stair connoisseur Emerson Underwood.

Stairs are generally an overlooked, uncontroversial part of schools, yet Charlotte Catholic students have displayed harshly negative and somewhat surprising reactions to the new stairs. Some students have been disturbed by the brightness of the steps, saying the steps hurt their eyes. Another drawback of the stairs has been an unpleasant smell lingering in the stairwells. Students fear that this odor, a displeasing blend of rubber and new paint, may soon spread throughout the halls of our school.

“The new blue stairs reek with that rubbery smell and it’s pretty annoying to walk down the stairs and be nauseated by them. I wish they could have just done this in the summer,” said sophomore Ryan Auger.

Another sophomore, Jenna Calderone, also finds the smell offensive. “I’m glad that the school is trying to make the stairwell look newer and nicer to look at, but I find myself avoiding it because the smell makes me want to throw up my previous meal,” she said.

However, students are still holding out hope that the scent is temporary and will cease to be an annoyance after a while.

“I’m sure everyone will appreciate them more when they smell less like something poisonous and more like stairs,” said Calderone.

They brighten the school yet irritate eyeballs. They exude school spirit, but also a rather unpleasant odor. These blue stairs have aroused a firestorm of controversy among Charlotte Catholic students.